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Schwertberg

Downstream the raftsmen see from afar the massive blocks of the city tower of Enns. Known already to the Romans, Enns has been since olden times an important depot for salt, wood and iron. Goods not discharged there for road transport, stayed on the barges until the Danube Maut (customs house) was reached. The market-town there is still known as Mauthausen, and commands the waterway to Vienna and Hungary.

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IN THE MÜHLVIERTEL. In the great quarries carved out of the steep Danube cliffs one glimpses the primitive Mühlviertel scenery, based literally on granite. How many blocks of it have been cut and shipped upstream and downstream from Mauthausen, and used to build railways, roads and bridges, making the name of this picturesque market-town known throughout Europe! On the same bank further downstream before the Danube enters the narrows of the Strudengau is a fertile stretch of land known as the Machland. The chief town is Perg, once famous for its sandstone quarries from which millstones were cut. Close by is Baumgartenberg, which rises abruptly with the massive tower of its entrance gates and its high-roofed church out of the spreading orchards.

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Steyr; the old Dominican Church.

A secular building of equal interest is the massive Greinburg with its granite arcades built on a cliff jutting out towards the Danube, dominating the town of Grein, framed by the forests and reflected in the waters of the Danube. Ships navigating this part of the Danube have to be on the lookout for rapids and whirlpools. Warnings are exhibited on the banks near danger spots and where necessary, hoisted on flag poles. The tugs toil upstream laboriously hauling heavily-laden barges past the picturesque riverside villages of Sarmingstein and St. Nikola.

Northwards from Perg and Mauthausen the Mühlviertel countryside broadens